

MIDSTATE REGIONAL PLANNING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

DATE: March 6, 2013

PLACE: Middletown City Hall
245 DeKoven Drive, Rm. 208
Middletown, CT

MEMBERS: CROMWELL

Alice Kelly
Richard Newton
Mertie Terry (via phone) *

DURHAM

Laura Francis *
Richard Eriksen

EAST HADDAM

Melissa Ziobron
Mark Walter *
Vacancy

EAST HAMPTON

Mark Philhower
Andrew Tierney
Michael Maniscalco

HADDAM

Stasia DeMichele
Raul deBrigard
Paul DeStefano *

MIDDLEFIELD

David Lowry
Jerry Russ *
Jon Brayshaw *

MIDDLETOWN

W. Lee Osborne *
Michael Johnson *
Daniel Drew *
Vacancy

PORTLAND

C. Joseph Seiferman
Susan Bransfield *
Vacancy

OTHERS: Bill Warner, Middletown Town Planner *
Stuart Popper, Cromwell Town Planner *

STAFF: Robert Haramut, Transportation Planner *
Judith Snyder, Recording Secretary *

* Designates present

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Osborne.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion of Mayor Drew, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was unanimously voted to:

APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Russ, it was voted to:

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2013 MEETING.

Mayor Drew, Mr. Brayshaw, Ms. Francis, Mr. Walter, Mr. DeStefano and Ms. Bransfield abstained from voting.

PUBLIC SESSION

No one spoke at this time.

2012-2015 TIP AMENDMENT #18– PROJECT #0082-0309, ROUTES 9 AND 17 ON-RAMP STUDY, MIDDLETOWN

Mr. Haramut discussed the proposed amendment #18 to the TIP. The Route 17 on-ramp to Route 9 has been studied before with other projects. However this proposal would allow this intersection to be studied alone. Mr. Warner stated he has spoken to DOT several times about the amount of accidents that occur at this on-ramp. Mr. Haramut stated that this intersection is the highest accident spot in the state.

Upon motion of Mayor Drew, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was unanimously voted to:

APPROVE THE 2012-2015 TIP AMENDMENT #18 – PROJECT #0082-0309, ROUTES 9 AND 17 ON-RAMP STUDY, MIDDLETOWN.

REVIEW FY 2012 OBLIGATED AND GRANTED PROJECT LIST

Mr. Haramut stated that each MPO is obligated to publish a list yearly of projects and the cost of each. A listing of those projects was distributed.

VOTE ON MPO MERGER

Mr. Warner explained that the eight towns of the Midstate Regional Planning Agency and the nine towns of the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency have merged into the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG). However the Midstate MPO has not voted to merge with the CT River MPO. To receive federal funds for transportation related projects a MPO needs to be formed and agreed upon by the local governments representing 75 percent of the affected metropolitan population, including the municipality with the largest population. This special meeting today is to vote on a combined MPO. Mr. Warner stated that the Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization bylaws will be amended to include the 17 towns of the RiverCOG, the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce, and Middletown Transit District and the Estuary Transit District as voting members.

Mr. Popper called Ms. Terry, Cromwell First Selectman, to vote on the motion via speaker phone.

Upon motion of Mr. Walter, seconded by Ms. Francis it was unanimously voted to:

APPROVE THE MERGER OF THE MIDSTATE REGIONAL
PLANNING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND
THE CONNECTICUT RIVER ESTUARY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Osborne stated he would step down from the acting chairman position for the remainder of the meeting and the mayor could continue. After discussion Mr. Osborne agreed to continue as acting chairman.

Ms. Francis stated that she would like to thank all of the MRPA members and staff for their work over the years. All agreed.

Mr. Osborne stated that he would like to thank Geoff Colegrove for his years of service. Mr. Walter spoke about the open house/retirement party for Geoff in Essex last October.

Mr. Warner also reminded the CEO's that the RiverCOG is still trying to form a Regional Planning Commission in which all the towns need to have two representatives. One representative needs to be a member of the zoning commission and the other to be appointed by the commission. As soon as the majority of the towns have representatives the commission will meet. At that time dates and times will be established for the monthly meetings. Mr. Popper asked if the locations of the meetings could change or would they all be held in Essex. This could be discussed further at the organizational meeting.

Upon motion of Mayor Drew, seconded by Ms. Bransfield, it was unanimously voted to:

ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Snyder
for William Lee Osborne